

Title: The Morning After 2

Author: Professor Ellie Rafkin

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The eggs were no doubt provided to the drones by a Queen, however this is only my hypothesis as we have yet to venture into their pits. The Myrmidex live in a sandy habitat and create elaborate subterranean pits within the sand. The species is mostly nocturnal, as we have not encountered them in daylight hours. As I examined the corpse even further I could see the embryonic mucosa covering the tissues - a viscous greenish-yellow slime leftover from the larvae feeding. No doubt the larva feeding on this corpse had already burrowed and soon will emerge as the largest of the species we'd observed so far, the Warrior. The Myrmidex Warriors were huge.

Their forward tarsus was modified into a razor sharp talon, capable of slicing their prey with ease. The exoskeleton of the Warrior was much harder than that of other individuals, often times marred with the scars of past aggression. I motioned over to the escorts and instructed them to burn the bodies. Burning the bodies was the only sure way, so far as we had determined, to prevent additional larva from hatching were they present. I returned to

makeshift mess tent. I didn't have much of an appetite. I had collected some samples from the corpses before the escorts burned them. I stored them within my already growing collection of items I'd collected during our time in the Valley.

I always aimed for a well kept tent, but often found my work strewn about as I furiously tried to document everything I'd seen. For all its danger Eodon was truly an enchanting place and I was hungry for knowledge. Outside the sun was just beginning to peak from behind the Volcano. I looked up and closed my eyes, basking in the warmth of its gentle rays. I let myself smile and relax for just a moment before opening my eyes once again. The sun was higher now and I had to squint. As my eyes came into focus I felt my heart sink, unease consumed my body. I froze immediately. Just beyond the perimeter of our camp I felt a hundred eyes on me.